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Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am here to voice opposition to HB433.

Increasing the compulsory ages of attendance is not beneficial to the state or to the families involved.

There is no evidence that a lower compulsory age will benefit children, and it will place a greater pressure on taxpayers as well as government agencies.

There is also no evidence that proves a higher compulsory attendance age will benefit society or the young adults that would be affected by this legislation.

Most importantly, as it pertains to the lowering or raising of compulsory attendance ages, this legislation undermines the parents authority to direct the education of their children. This was a right guaranteed to parents by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (Pierce vs. Society of Sisters). Traditional families are one of the foundational cornerstones of American Society. It concerns me deeply that we see the government seeking in many forums such as this, to interfere with the direction and upbringing of children as defined by loving parents.

Please vote not to HB433.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Andrea M. Walker